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315TH NEWSLETTER

Published by
WORLD WAR II 315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASS'N.



OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

Message from the Board of Directors

December 8, 2017

Hello 315th Trooper Carrier pilots, families and friends,

We hope you enjoy this year-in-review newsletter. You may notice that the newsletter is eight pages, up from the four pages we typically mail to you.

- Richard “Dick” Ford continues to travel and attend events on behalf of the World War II 315th Troop Carrier Group Association. Dick shared some photographs and memories from his recent travels including a photo of him and Jack Geist at the WWII Glider Pilots Assoc. Reunion, which was held in October in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Dick also continues to serve as Treasurer and we truly appreciate his great work in managing the group’s finances.
- Unfortunately, we have some very sad news to report about the passing of one of the well-known and respected members of the 315th. Retired Lt. Colonel Robert L. “Doc” Cloer passed away on January 7, 2017. He was 95 years old. A Memorial and Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, April 8 in Yuba City, CA. You will see the beautiful memorial that his family shared with the 315th Group in this newsletter.
- Our sincere thanks to many generous folks who have made donations to the WWII 315th Association over the past year. The bank balance has increased from \$1,605 in September 2016 to more than \$2,200 in October 2017! This is a huge help in covering the cost of the newsletter and is greatly appreciated.
- For information on the WWII Glider Pilots Association and their Reunions, please visit www.ww2gp.org.
- We welcome photos and stories for the 315th newsletter. Please see the email contact information on Pg. 7 or mail your submissions to P.O. Box 993, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

Wishing you and your families Happy Holidays and a Wonderful 2018!

WWII 315th Troop Carrier Group Board of Directors



Dick Ford Still Serves the 315th TCG

Treasurer Richard Ford has followed in the footsteps of Bob Cloer, former president and long time secretary, supporting and representing the 315th TCG Assn. in military and public contacts. Whereas Cloer served the group in the early years, Dick was unaware of the association until 1978. Since then he had assumed an active role by participating in 44 biennial 315th and recent WWII pilot reunions and other WWII military and public observances stateside and in western Europe.

To date he has served the association in an official capacity for 28 years as director, vice president, president, past president and treasurer and for the last 10 years, as its official representative and spokesman. He is regularly called upon to take part in military ceremonies and patriotic observance. On October 27, 2012 the 315th TCG Association Group officially recognized his continued service by presenting him with a Lifetime Achievement Award at a reunion meeting in San Antonio. In 2015 he was flown to Washington, D.C. as a member of Eastern Oregon's WWII Honors Flight.

As a WWII spokesman, Dick now serves both the 315th Group and the National Glider Pilots Associations and has been an honored guest and participant at nine European military remembrances. Two involved celebrated reenactments of D-Day in 2006 and Market Mission in 2009 at the 315th airbase at Spanhoe, England. The other seven are annual tributes to British, American and Polish allied airborne battle losses in Market Mission in 1944.

Dick has been an honored guest of the "*Lest We Forget*" Foundation at each of his commemorative visits representing American troop carrier pilots who took part in Market Mission air drops. He also has been teamed with a Polish paratroop veteran laying their nation's floral wreath at Veterans Airborne Square in Arnhem and an US Military attache laying the American wreath.

During these trips as a service retired USAF Lt. Colonel, he has gained the friendship of many regional and national leaders and military heads of western European nations, including the Netherlands, Poland, England, France, the European Union and the United States Embassy at The Hague..

In 2014 during the historic 70th Market Mission anniversary, he also met and shared a personal toast of friendship with King William-Alexander of the Netherlands during a private meeting with Polish paratroop veterans in Driel and then dined that evening with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski at a banquet with Polish paratroops and their families at De Oldenburg in Driel.

In 2016, during two separate European canal voyages, Dick and his twin (Bob) were chosen to lay a commemorative floral wreath at the base of the memorial statue at Oosterbeek Military Cemetery near Nijmegen and also at the base of the ceremonial statue at the Colleville-sur-mer Cemetery adjacent to Omaha Beach. On June 6 during the Seine River cruise he also spoke a tribute to fellow passengers about the allied soldiers who fought on the breaches of Normandy 73 years ago.

Photo Gallery: Dick Ford

Two 315th Pilots at 2017 Reunion

Jack Geist and Dick Ford represented the WWII 315th Troop Carrier Group at the joint World War II Reunion in Mt. Pleasant, TX on October 12-14. Both flew in the prototype C-47 of Gen. Hap Arnold during US recruiting trip and a WWII C-47.



Clockwise beginning with top right: 315th TCG C-47 preparing to load 92nd Airborne paratroops for “Grave” DZ to begin Market Mission on Sept. 17, 1944; Dick speaking to cruise passengers on Seine River on June 4, 2016; Crossing of Rhine River at Driel with Polish comrade 2014 and Dick at the Quonset Hut home at Spanhoe Airfield 1944.





Celebration of Life to be Held for Robert Cloer

Family and friends say farewell to Retired Lt. Colonel Robert L. Cloer, known to most as "Bob," and as "Doc" to his World War II buddies. Bob passed away on January 7, 2017. He was 95. Bob's Memorial and Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, April 8, 1:00, at the Harvest Room, New Earth Market, 1475 Tharp Road in Yuba City.

From a depression-era farm boy who became head of his family at age 13, to a buck private US Army recruit fresh out of high school dreaming of becoming a pilot, to a retired Lt. Colonel in the Air Force who logged almost 6000 hours of flying time, Bob's life typified those in America's Greatest Generation.

Bob was born in Porterville, California on December 3, 1921. His grandparents were homesteaders and dry-land wheat farmers. He was the son of James Harold Cloer; his mother was Della Beers Cloer who came west from Michigan to teach in rural Porterville. As his father fell ill, Bob stepped up as the man of a household that included a younger brother and sister. After his father's death, he and his mother kept the family going by selling produce in town.

Bob graduated from Porterville High School in 1940, and as soon as the crops were harvested in 1942 he followed his dream to become a pilot by enlisting in the Army Air Force as a buck private. In January 1943, he became an aviation cadet and soon he was headed overseas on a fast troopship to England to join the 315th Troop Carrier Group. He joined the 34th TCS as a D-Day replacement pilot. Bob jokingly described those years, "When men were men --and we flew those airplanes with the round engines that had a prop in front."

In a questionnaire sent by a World War II Department of History, Bob's summary of the highlights of his Army Air Corp years between 1943 and 1946 said that he, "Towed combat gliders, dropped American, British and Polish paratroopers and supplies behind enemy lines, flew resupply missions carrying troops, equipment, supplies and personnel and evacuated wounded and POWs from the front lines." Under the question, "Were you involved in any unusual operations?" he replied, "Dropped American, British and Polish troops in the Invasion

of Holland, dropped British troops on the invasion of Germany, and landed with troops at the Battle of the Bulge." And somewhere along the way he acquired the nickname of "Doc."

What were his most vivid memories? "The great friendships that last to this day!"

After being discharged in 1946, Bob returned to Porterville area where he wanted to farm, but it was impossible to buy equipment after the war so he became a farm account salesman for Mobil Oil. In December 1947, he married retired Navy nurse Peggy Gladney and moved to Visalia where they opened an English motorcycle and automobile dealership. The new career was cut short in 1952 when he was recalled to duty in the Air Force; they needed pilots for the Korean War. He sold his business and decided to make a career as an Air Force pilot.

During his career he lived in many countries including England, Trinidad, Japan, Greenland, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, the Azores, and flew over much of the world. He logged most of his flying hours on C-47's, the 'Gooney Bird.' He also flew B-29's, KC-97's, C-45's, B-25's, C-54's, C-124's, C-119's. He flew the C-47's almost every place he was stationed including on skis on the polar icecap. He retired as CO of the 1937th Communications Squadron at Beale Air Force Base, where they still had a couple of C-47's. Shortly before he retired, he flew one of these C-47's to Miami and the other one was retired. He, his wife Peggy and his daughter Kathleen had settled in Yuba City where he lived the rest of his life.

Bob was a guiding light in expanding a 1947 reunion of the WWII 34th Tactical Squadron to include the entire 315th Troop Carrier Group with a reunion in New Orleans in 1980. Bob worked tirelessly to locate WWII members of Troop Carrier groups nationwide. The organization was expanded to include members overseas and glider associations for biennial group reunions. As secretary of the 315th, Bob's tireless work kept these veterans connected for many decades.

After retirement in 1970, Bob got busy in civic affairs, sold real estate, and flew a few years for a construction company. He was an active member of several organizations in addition to being secretary of the 315th Troop Carrier Group. He was a past president of Sons in Retirement, past President of the Early Risers Kiwanis, and a member of Sons of the Golden West.

Bob is survived by his sister, Patricia Chambers of Anaheim, three nieces, two nephews, and many cousins. Bob and Peggy's daughter passed away in 1970. His wife passed away in 2007. His brother, Harold Cloer, passed away in 2012.

Bob and his wife Peggy were laid to rest next to his daughter and his parents and grandparents in the Cloer family plot at Vandalia Cemetery in Porterville.

Bob defended and served the country he loved without hesitation, offered a hand to any who needed help and never knew a stranger. His network of friends stretches around the world. He will be greatly missed.

You can contact Bob's cousin, Carla Cloer, 182 East Reid Ave, Porterville CA 93257, <cac@ocsnet.net> and Bob's sister, Patricia Chambers, 234 S. Primrose St, Anaheim CA 92804



Robert L. Cloer- 1943

Air Force Song: 1942

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder
At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!

Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder
Sent it high into the blue
Hands of men blasted the world a-sunder
How they lived God only knew!
Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer
Gave us wings, ever to soar!
With scouts before and bombers galore.
Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!

Off we go into the wild sky yonder,
Keep the wings level and true
If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder
Keep the nose out of the blue!
Flying men, guarding the nation's border,
We'll be there followed by more!
In echelon we carry on
Oh, nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

TAPS



In Loving Memory
**Clinton Calvin
 Denny**

December 16, 1923
 to
 February 14, 2016

WWII 315th

Treasury Report

Bank Balance October 31, 2017

\$2,273.33

**Donations to support the WWII 315th
 Troop Carrier Group Newsletter effort are
 appreciated.**

**Donations or annual dues of \$20.00 can
 be sent to:**

Richard T. Ford, Treasurer
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 1125 McGee Ct. NE, Unit 128
 Salem, OR 97303-9460

***Thanks to those who have made
 generous donations over the past year!***

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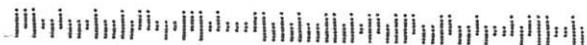
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***Grand
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***September
2017***

***Photo by:
Valerie Richardson***